

Media Advisory

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC Forestry Commission reminds Upstate residents that burning ban is still in effect for all Piedmont counties

COLUMBIA—The South Carolina Forestry Commission has a State Forester's Burning Ban in effect for all Piedmont counties, effective since Nov. 10. The counties covered by the ban include **Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York.**

State Forester Gene Kodama expanded the ban because of weather conditions in the Piedmont region that present an elevated risk of wildfire. The +2,000-acre wildfire now burning on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park in Pickens County is a product of these dangerous fire weather conditions. The agency's Type II Incident Management Team is directing the multi-agency deployment of resources at the Pinnacle Mountain fire, which has more than 200 personnel devoted to the operation.

A State Forester's Burning Ban prohibits outdoor burning, which includes yard debris burning and burning for forestry, wildlife or agricultural purposes. While campfires and open-fire cooking are not included in the ban, the Forestry Commission strongly encourages all citizens in the five counties to refrain from any unnecessary burning.

Residents in counties not subject to the burning ban are cautioned to be extremely vigilant when burning yard debris and/or conducting prescribed burns. State law requires that citizens outside of unincorporated areas notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. The notification is a quick, easy, automated process, and the toll-free numbers for each county are provided at the link below:

<http://www.state.sc.us/forest/fyard.htm>

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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 12.9 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.